

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of January 20, 2016.

Board members present were Phil Goff, Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin and Stephan Miller. Board members absent were Doug Greenfield and Scott Smith. Others in attendance were Rod Holland, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Shea, Seth Federspiel, Officer Steve Conway and Emily Snyder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm.

*Approval of the minutes from December meeting. The December minutes were approved as amended.

COBWEB report. Officer Conway told us that the COBWEB team has two new electric bicycles to facilitate their patrolling.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report—The Lake St./Bikeway intersection. Seth told us that the TAC has collected a lot of data about this intersection. The traffic problem on Lake St. occurs mostly during the evening rush hour. The purpose of this project is to make the traffic more orderly and flow faster and more smoothly. The potential plan is to put a signal at the Lake St./Bikeway intersection that would be coordinated with the existing light at Brooks Ave. The Board of Selectmen (BoS) wanted more information on the traffic problem on Lake St. before committing to financing a traffic signal, so the TAC has been collecting data since last spring.

Last summer the Arlington Police Department simulated a light at the intersection by directing traffic in the evening. The traffic was monitored for another week without police intervention as the control. The TAC then wrote a report summarizing the results of the experiment. In short, the simulated signal seemed to facilitate the flow of traffic on Lake St.; the delay on the Bikeway was a maximum of 40 seconds and the traffic on Brooks Ave. did not significantly increase. The report was approved at the last TAC meeting and will be submitted to the BoS at their next meeting. The current data indicate that a traffic light would facilitate rush hour traffic on Lake St. but there are many details to be worked out about the installation of a light.

Rod asked if the proposed traffic light would encourage the stopping of cars within the crosswalk. He added that some signage or infrastructure would be necessary to prevent this. Seth thought that there could also be an offset in the timing of the lights. Christopher asked what accommodations would be made for pedestrians on the sidewalks along Lake St. We would have to think carefully about warning those pedestrians.

The question for ABAC is how this project will affect the users of the Bikeway. We concluded that we would prefer that the burden of the intersection is not placed exclusively on bicyclists. Ron asked what the timing of the signal in off hours would be. We thought that this would be a critical issue. Christopher would like to see ABAC participating in all phases of the project. Jack brought up the traffic light at the Bedford St. crossing in Lexington which could be studied as an example.

The topic of truck side guards was tabled, awaiting the return of Scott Smith who was researching the topic.

Complete Streets (see the December minutes). Seth told us that the TAC has approved the Complete Streets Guide for all of the major streets in Arlington. This means that the streets should be designed for all users.

Bikeway signage working group. This working group has developed a policy for signage along the Bikeway. The resulting document was sent out for comment and will be submitted to the Town Manager for approval.

Winter Social. The date for this year's Social is March 1 at 7 pm. The agenda will include a panel composed of representatives from the bicycle committees of local cities and towns. Christopher will make the arrangements, and Jack volunteered to advertise the event.

LAB application working group. We received the application and Christopher has reviewed it. He proposed forming a working group to begin filling out the application. The group is comprised of Phil, Joey, Christopher, Rod, Jack and Elizabeth. The first meeting will be at 7 on January 27.

New Minuteman Bikeway website. Stephan told us that the redesigned website will go live this week. Joey suggested that he submit announcement to the Advocate to publicize the event .

Lastly Joey told us about the new Director of Planning. Christopher suggested that we invite her to an ABAC meeting and to the Winter Social.

Three members of the Board are up to have their term of office renewed: Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, and Phil Goff. These three members expressed willingness to continue their activities with the Board; the Board supported having their positions continued for three years. This would be brought before the Board of Selectmen, who will be responsible for the reappointment.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller